

REMARKS

1. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,512,729 ("Shih").

2. Response to § 102 Rejections

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set out below, and ask the Examiner for reconsideration.

U.S. patent no. 6,512,729 to Shih was issued on Patent application serial no. 09/784,108 filed Feb. 16, 2001. This application did not claim priority from any earlier patent application.

The present application was filed on Jun. 21, 2001 but claims priority from US provisional patent application no. 60/213,735 **filed on Jun. 22, 2000**. All the claims of the present application are based on the disclosure in the provisional application.

As the Shih patent application was filed after the priority date of the present application it does not qualify as prior art under § 102 and cannot anticipate the claims of the present application.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been also been overcome, and withdrawal of this final rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above error, the finality of the Office Action should also be withdrawn, which is also hereby earnestly requested.

3. Conclusion

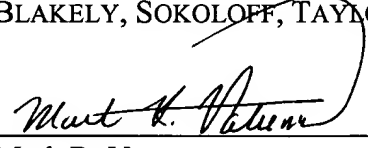
Having tendered the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been addressed and that the claims are now in a condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact André Marais at (408) 947-8200 ext. 204.

Respectfully submitted,

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